

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 IO-03 NEA-06

L-02 SAJ-01 USSS-00 ORM-01 SR-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 SCA-01 VO-01 DRC-01

/068 W

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R 261140Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6803

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD (BY POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 3927

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: CVIS, PINT, SREF, PFOR, UR, IS, RO

SUBJ: SOVIET EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL--ROMANIAN TRANSIT

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 13327; (B) BUCHAREST 3738

1. SINCE REF (B), LOCAL EVIDENCE HAS BEEN SPARSE AND CONFLICTING ON WHETHER SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION TRANSIT THROUGH ROMANIA IS CONTINUING. GOR AND ISRAELI SOURCES ARE MORE RELUCTANT THAN EVER TO TALK AS RESULT VIENNA PUBLICITY ON SUBJECT. EMBASSY NOW TENDS TO BELIEVE FLOW PROBABLY HAS DECREASED OR STOPPED.

2. ON OCTOBER 23 ISRAELI AMBASSADOR COHEN VIGOROUSLY DENIED TO CHARGE THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY FLOW OF SOVIET JEWS THROUGH ROMANIA AFTER ME HOSTILITIES BEGAN. DENIAL COULD OF COURSE
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BE MEANT TO DISCOURAGE FURTHER SPECULATION AND TO COVER UP

OPERATION IF IT STILL EXISTS, BUT COULD AS WELL BE
ESSENTIALLY TRUE.

3. AIRPORT CHECKS HAVE BEEN UNPRODUCTIVE, EXCEPT THAT
WESTERN AIRLINE REP CLAIMS TO HAVE SEEN SOVIET JEWISH
FAMILIES AT OTOPENI AIRPORT SUNDAY OCT. 14 (PRESUMABLY FOR
EL AL FLIGHT DEPARTURE). AIRPORT GUARD OCT. 23 TOLD
EMBOFF STORY OF 1-2 "CHARTER FLIGHTS" PER NIGHT HANDLED AT
AIRPORT BETWEEN 2-4 A.M. DURING WEEK OF OCT. 15-21. HE
SAID HE THOUGH "THEY" (AIRPLANES OR POSSIBLY PEOPLE) WERE
"FROM USSR." WE ARE MOST RELUCTANT TO CREDIT AIRPORT GOSSIP
WITHOUT HARDER CONFIRMATION, BUT MENTION REPORT IN CASE IT
SOMEHOW REFLECTS EMIGRANT FLOW. (MEANWHILE, EL AL REP SAYS
EL AL IS MAINTAINING "NORMAL" BUCHAREST-TEL AVIV FLIGHT SCHEDULE
AND TAROM WILL BEGIN NEXT WEEK.) WE DO NOT RPT
NOT BELIEVE ALLEGED "CHARTER" AIRCRAFT, IF ANY, RELATED TO ME
ARAB RESUPPLY, IF ONLY BECAUSE THIS WOULD CONTRADICT ENTIRE GOR
POLITICAL THRUST ON ME AS WE KNOW IT AS WELL AS REPORTS THAT GOR
WAS ASKED BUT REFUSED SOVIETS OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS.

4. EMB HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO QUESTION ISRAELI DCM RESHEV
AGAIN BUT AT FIRST SIUTABLE OPPORTUNITY WILL DO SO. RESHEV
HAS CONSISTENTLY GIVEN FIGURES FOR TRANSIT OF JEWS HIGHER
THAN OTHER SOURCES AND IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER HIS ACCURACY
IS QUESTIONABLE OR WHETHER HE HAS SIMPLY BEEN MORE FRANK
THAN OTHER ISRAELI SOURCES ABOUT MATTER REGARDED BY THEM
AS OF EXTREME SENSITIVITY. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT HIS
REPORT OF OCT. 12 (REF B) COULD WELL HAVE BEEN REFLECTION,
PERHAPS EXAGGERATED, OF FINAL BLOB AT END OF PIPELINE IN
FIRST WEEK OF WAR BEFORE POSSIBLE CUTBACK OCCURRED.

5. WILL REPORT FUTHER TO DEGREE THAT ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE
BECOMES AVAILABLE.
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